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WHO WOULD BE A KING?

How Some of Europe's Crowned Heads
Would Be King.

The recent death of the king of Portugal reminds one that the emperors and kings of this earth are taking them all round, a very unhealthy and unhappy set of people. Such a thing as a jolly monarch, with a good digestion, is scarcely to be found. The czars suffer horribly from his nerves, and is at times hypochondriacal; the empress is much tortured by nerves as her husband, and has long periods of intense prostration. The emperor of Austria is healthy enough, but he is a sad man; for the empress has been during the last ten years a martyr to sciatica and rheumatic fevers, and her nerves have been affected to the extent of making her capricious, hysterical and melancholy.

She belongs to that Wittelsbach family, in whose blood there is a taint of insanity, which broke out in King Louis of Bavaria, in the present King Otto and in the late Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria. The king of Wurtemburg, too, is more than half crazy, and King Milan of Serbia must be added to the list of sovereigns whom nervousness renders well nigh irresponsible for their actions. In King Milan's case, as in the czar's and the sultan's, the fear of assassination has been the main determining cause of mental disorder. The predecessors of all three were murdered, and the world does not hold three more wretched, frightened, hampered and than the czar, the Sultan Abdil Hamid and King Milan.

The German emperor has some very distressing physical ailments. He has an impotent left hand, and he suffers from periodic suppurations of the left ear, which sometimes make him frantic with pain and afterwards dizzy from sleeplessness. The king of Spain is a unity, but, like earlier, Alfonso XII., ruined his constitution by excesses of all kinds and during the last year of his life could be kept going only by champagne and quinine. The king of Holland offers another example of a ruined constitution, but the process of destruction took longer with him than with Alfonso.

He had a strong constitution to start with, after his second marriage, however, the king of Holland has been an irritable invalid, continually attended, indeed, by his young wife, but always ailing, suffering, grubbing, and now he has sunk into dotage. The king of Italy suffers from a gastric derangement, brought on, as his doctors say, by too much smoking of rank tobacco of Virginia, and he has to diet himself with milk, light broth and stewed fruits.

The queen of England and the kings of Sweden, Denmark, Romania, Greece and Belgium are the only sovereigns who can be said to enjoy the blessings of the sound mind in the sound body. Leopold II. of Belgium, however, is lame, and King Charles of Rommania, though healthy himself, has been most miserably by the nervous malady of his wife, Queen Elizabeth, who for a long time was plagued by hallucinations which brought her to the verge of insanity. Altogether, it will be seen that in the imperial and royal families there are very few persons whom all political risks apart—an insurance company's physician would certify as having "first class lives." —Berlin Cor., New York Post.

THOUGHTS ON MY SEVENTY-EIGHTH BIRTHDAY.

Just eight and seventy years to day.
Have run their course and passed away,
Since first I saw the light of day.

This fourteenth of November.

Friends of my youth, Ah! where are they?

Alas! most all have passed away,

But few remain to see this day,

Of whom I now remember.

The autumn leaves that strew the ground,

With fading glory all around,

Tell me as they come trembling down.

My end is surely nigh.

As one by one they drop away—

In solemn silence seem to say:

Time is hastening on the day,

When you must droop and die.

Alas! and what is life but a dream?

Tis really nothing as it stems;

Tis only feeble glimmerings—

Sparks from the light above.

To realms of light, in endless day;

Where our immortal treasures lay.

Our home of peace and love—

While I'm permitted here to stay,

O may I live each fleeting day.

Faithful and true till call'd away.

To my eternal rest.

With the dear loved ones gone before,

On that celestial happy shore.

Where sin and sorrow come no more,

And be forever blessed.

J. ALMOND CADMUS,
New York City, November 14, 1889.

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A. BAKER.

The redecoration of the corridor of Windsor Castle has just been completed at a cost of several thousand pounds. The work has been constantly in progress all the year except when the queen has been at the castle. The new design, which was chosen by Princess Beatrice, is of sage green. In the corridor are a large number of splendid cabinets, many of which are filled with chinaware one set of Rose-Darby being valued at £30,000. At the upper end of the corridor is a bust of George, the son of his pocket book, mounted in crystal. Guests for the queen's dinner party invariably assemble in the corridor, as the oak room, where her majesty lunches and dines, opens from it, and close to the door hangs Professor Angelini's celebrated portrait of Beaconsfield, next to it being a curious portrait of George II.

The queen's private apartments are in the immediate vicinity of the corridor, and three drawing rooms, the white, the green and the red, open from it. The decoration of the corridor is the most important work of the kind that has been carried out in the private apartments since the grand dining room at the northeast corner of the castle was splendidly redecorated in cream and gold, just before the jubilee. This room contains a magnificent carved sideboard of rosewood, and also a gold punch bowl and ladle for which George IV paid 10,000 guineas.—*Telegraph*.

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